

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HUD-01 SS-15 L-03 EB-08 OES-09  
SMS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 HA-05  
DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 /082 W  
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O 231709Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5944

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 20220

DEPT PASS HUD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: TGEN, UR, US  
SUBJECT: US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT: US EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SOVIET DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF  
JOINT COMMISSION

REF: (A) STATE 209852, (B) MOSCOW 18020, (C) STATE  
198198

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED MRS. HANCOCK AND HER  
STAFF AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 22 TO MEETING WITH GENNADIY  
N. FOMIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL  
CONSTRUCTION AND ARCHITECTURE AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF  
THE US-USSR JOINT COMMISSION ON HOUSING. SOVIETS  
GAVE THEIR INITIAL RESPONSE TO US SUGGESTIONS ON  
TIMING AND ITINERARY FOR THE JCM AND ADMINISTRATIVE  
CHANGES TO HOUSING AGREEMENT PROCEDURES, AND DISCUSSED  
FUTURE OF AGREEMENT. CANCELLATION OF SIMONS VISIT AND  
ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION WERE RAISED  
BY SOVIETS. END SUMMARY.

2. NEW TOWNS: FOMIN PROVIDED INITIAL, GENERALLY  
FAVORABLE SOVIET REACTION TO POINTS RAISED BY US SIDE  
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DURING MORNING MEETINGS AT GOSSTROY. SOVIETS, HOW-  
EVER, ASKED THAT US RECONSIDER SUGGESTION TO DROP NEW  
TOWNS (10.06) WORKING GROUP AFTER PRESENT WORKING  
SCHEDULE COMPLETED. FOMIN STATED SOVIETS ARE STILL  
INTERESTED IN COOPERATION IN THIS AREA AND BELIEVE  
PROGRAM COULD BE MADE MORE PRODUCTIVE BY INCLUDING  
SOME PROJECTS (SUCH AS PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL

MONUMENTS, FUNCTIONING OF NEW TOWNS, ETC.) CURRENTLY UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT (02.04). HE PROPOSED TRANSFERRING THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THESE SUBJECTS TO THE HOUSING AGREEMENT AND RENAMING THE WORKING GROUP. FOMIN INDICATED THAT HE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO USSR WG CHAIRMEN GULYAEV (02.04) AND KUDRYATSEV (10.06) AND THIS COULD BE WORKED OUT WITH THEM. MRS. HANCOCK AGREED TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY IN WASHINGTON, BUT CAUTIONED THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE FEASIBLE. SHE NOTED THERE WERE SOME ADVANTAGES TO KEEPING THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AREA UNDER THE EPA AGREEMENT. THIS COULD BE DISCUSSED AGAIN AT THE JCM.

3. JCM AND NOVIKOV VISIT: FOMIN CONFIRMED THAT PROPOSED DATES AND ITINERARY FOR NOVIKOV VISIT AND JCM WERE SATISFACTORY. HE COULD NOT SPECIFY HOW MANY WOULD BE IN SOVIET DELEGATION, BUT SAID IT WOULD BE NO LARGER THAN US DELEGATION WHICH VISITED USSR LAST YEAR. FOMIN WILL BE TRAVELING WITH GROUP THAT GOES TO PHILADELPHIA WHILE NOVIKOV AND A SMALLER NUMBER PROCEED TO LAKE PLACID. FOMIN ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VIEWING SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES DURING COURSE OF HIS VISIT TO US.

4. FUTURE OF COOPERATION AND SIMONS LETTER: FOMIN STATED THAT HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY

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DURING THE UPCOMING JCM TO LOOK AT THE FUTURE OF COOPERATION IN HOUSING. HE NOTED THE HOUSING AGREEMENT RENEWAL COMES UP IN 1979 AND SUGGESTED THAT PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE BE CONSIDERED IN THE REPORTS BY THE US AND USSR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN DURING THE JCM, ADDING THAT HIS REPORT WILL DEAL WITH INCREASING JOINT COOPERATION ON A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL BASIS. HE NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME DEVELOPING JOINT PROJECTS AND COORDINATING, BUT NOW IS THE TIME TO START WORKING MORE EFFECTIVELY, NOT ONLY ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS BUT ALSO WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE BROUGHT UP THE ONE "SOUR NOTE" IN OUR RECENT COOPERATION WAS THE LETTER FROM SIMONS TO ISHCHENKO (REF C). HE SAID THE SOVIET SIDE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVES FOR THE LETTER AND WANTED TO KNOW IF THIS MEANT THAT THE WORKING GROUP SIMONS HEADS WOULD CEASE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES. AFTER MRS. HANCOCK'S EXPLANATION OF US POSITION (PER REF B) AND ASSURANCE THAT THE WORKING GROUP WOULD CONTINUE, FOMIN OBSERVED THAT THE USSR APPROACH WAS DIFFERENT. SOVIETS DO NOT WANT ISSUES WHICH HAVE NO RELATION TO HOUSING TO "DARKEN OUR COOPERATION."

THERE WERE MANY THINGS THE SOVIETS DID NOT LIKE ABOUT THE US BUT IF THEY WERE ALLDWD TO GET IN THE WAY, THERE WOULD BE NO SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL COOPERATION. FOMIN SAID THE USSR WISHES TO CONTINUE THE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US IN HOUSING AS BEFORE, AND HOPES SIMONS AND ISHCHENKO HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THIS IN WASHINGTON.

5. COMMENT: SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY THE 1979 RENEWAL DATE, WAS CLEARLY UPPERMOST IN FOMIN'S MIND. HIS REMARKS ON THE SIMONS LETTER WERE LOW-KEY AND EMPHASIZED SOVIET

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 20220

CONCERN ABOUT THE WORKING GROUP SIMONS HEADS RATHER THAN THE USUAL REJOINDER ABOUT INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS (CF REF B). HE TRIED TO PLACE SIMONS LETTER IN THE LIGHT OF A PERSONAL DECISION RATHER THAN AS PART OF A MORE GENERAL US POSITION, ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED HIS OWN IMPRESSION OF SIMONS DURING THEIR MEETING IN WASHINGTON WAS THAT SIMONS WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO US-USSR COOPERATION.

6. SOVIETS ARE ANXIOUS TO PIN-DOWN THE JCM DATE AND COMMITMENT TO A NOVIKOV VISIT. DURING MRS. HANCOCK'S MORNING SESSIONS WITH GOSSTROY OFFICIALS, THEY INDICATED THERE MIGHT BE A CHANGE IN NOVIKOV'S PLANS AND HE WOULD HAVE TO START HIS US VISIT 5 DAYS EARLIER BECAUSE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1980 OLYMPIC GAMES. FOMIN, HOWEVER, STATED IN THE AFTERNOON, THAT SINCE US SIDE HAD ALREADY MADE ALL ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY HARRIS, NOVIKOV WOULD COME AS PLANNED. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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